

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR PROGRAM 2003-2004

Varieties of political economy

Multi-disciplinary approaches to the role of institutions in advanced economies

Under the common label of “political economy”, two different traditions of research and analysis have developed, which start from different assumptions and aim at different goals. The first tradition has been mainly developed by economists who seek to apply the economic paradigm outside the traditional realm of economics. Several political scientists have followed this attempt to understand institutions and political behaviour by using a rational choice approach. A second tradition, developed largely by sociologists and other political scientists, sees economic policies and performance as shaped by (or embedded in) pre-existing institutions and non-economic factors such as political interests or ideas. Scholars in these two traditions rarely engage in open discussion with each other about their respective assumptions, methods of analysis and empirical results. Such debates will be a focus for the work of the graduate students in this programme, inspired by the seminars given by outstanding sociologists, economists and political scientists working at the boundaries of the two traditions.

November 2003

Maurizio Ferrera, Marino Regini, Michele Salvati (University of Milan)

“An Introduction to Political Economy”

November 2003

Alberto Alesina (Harvard University)

“Fighting Poverty in the US and Europe: a World of Difference”

30 January, 2004

Alessandro Pizzorno (European University Institute)

“On the Limits of Rational Choice”

13 February, 2004

Guido Tabellini (IGIER, Bocconi University)

“How do electoral rules shape party structures, government coalitions and economic policies?”

12 March, 2004

Bruno Amable (CEPREMAP - CNRS Paris)

"Complementarity and hierarchy of institutions and diversity of models of capitalism"

2 April, 2004

Ronald Dore (London School of Economics)

"How to keep CEOs honest and hard-working. Different countries, different capitalisms, different answers"

30 April, 2004

Rogers Hollingsworth (University of Wisconsin, Madison)

"Why Research Organizations Vary in Their Capacity to Make Major Breakthroughs: An Institutional and Organizational Perspective"

7 May, 2004

Franz Traxler (University of Vienna)

"Macroeconomic governance: the role of trade unions and employer associations revisited"

21 May, 2004

Viktor Vanberg (University of Freiburg)

"Constitutional political economy"

4 June, 2004

Samuel Bowles (Santa Fe Institute, University of Siena)

"In search of *homo economicus*: behavioural experiments in fifteen small scale societies"

7 June, 2004

George Tsebelis (University of California Los Angeles)

"Veto players and the EU Constitution"

11 June, 2004

Wolfgang Streeck (Max-Planck-Institute Cologne)

"Creative actors, beneficial constraints. A non-functionalist perspective on social institutions and economic systems"

18 June, 2004

Tony Atkinson (Nuffield College, Oxford)

"Globalization, institutions and income inequality"